

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 15, 2005. A petition for one month extension of time, to and including January 17, 2006, is submitted herewith. In the event any additional fees are necessary in connection with the present Amendment, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Claims 9, 28-30, 36 and 37 are hereby canceled. Claims 2, 3, 5, 9, 14-22, 24-25, 31-33, and 39-42 were previously canceled. Claim 35 has been amended so as to depend from claim 23 instead of now-canceled claim 28. Claim 38 has been amended so as to depend from claim 35 instead of the now-canceled claim 29.

Claims 1, 4, 6-13, 23 and 26-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Nieuwoldt, EP 0 816 248, in view of Krones, DE 298 12 169.

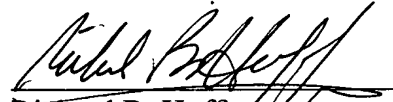
The Applicants submit herewith a certified translation of German Patent Application No. 199 47 273.4, filed September 30, 1999, to which the present application claims priority. It is respectfully submitted that there is support for the subject matter of all remaining claims of the present application. The publication date of Krones, DE 298 12 169, is October 14, 1999, i.e. after the September 30, 1999 date to which all still-pending claims of the present application are entitled to priority.

Krones, DE 298 12 169 is therefore not available as a prior art reference against the Applicants' pending claims of the present application.

Inasmuch as Nieuwoldt, alone or in combination with any other prior art references of record, does not teach or suggest the Applicants' claims, it is respectfully submitted that all claims still pending in the application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner's reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


Richard B. Hoffman
Reg. No. 26,910

MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 6300 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
Telephone: (312) 474-6300
Facsimile: (312) 474-0448